

**CLAIMS**

1. Use of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi and which  
5 nucleic acid sequence is selected from:
- (a) a nucleic acid encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484, or encoding a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said protein;
- (b) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% similar, preferably more than 80% similar, more preferably more than 90% similar and most preferably more than 97% similar to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300,

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(c) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484;

(d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261,

- 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481 or 483;
- (e) a nucleic acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the nucleic acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481 or 483; and
- (f) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a functional fragment of any of the nucleic acid sequences as specified in a) to e),
- (g) the complement of any of the nucleic acid sequences as specified in a) to f), for the preparation of a medicament for treating diseases associated with yeast or fungi.

2. Use of a polypeptide which is involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi, said polypeptide being selected from :

- (a) a protein having an amino acid sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484, or encoding a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said protein;
- (b) a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% similar, preferably more than 80% similar, more preferably more than 90% similar and most preferably more than 97% similar to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432,

434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484;

- (c) a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484; and,

(d) a functional fragment of any of said proteins as defined in a) to c),  
for the preparation of a medicament for treating diseases associated with yeast or fungi.

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3. A pharmaceutical or fungicidal composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 or a polypeptide as defined in claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier diluent or excipient therefor.

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4. A vaccine for immunizing a mammal against yeast or fungal infections comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 or at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 2 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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5. A genetically modified yeast or fungus in which modification results in the overexpression or underexpression of at least one of the nucleic acids as defined in claim 1 or the polypeptides as defined in claim 2, which overexpression or

underexpression of said nucleic acid or polypeptide prevents or delays apoptosis of said genetically modified yeast or fungus.

5           6.     A method of identifying compounds which selectively modulate expression or functionality of polypeptides involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi or in metabolic pathways in which said polypeptides are involved, which method comprises:

- 10           (a) contacting a compound to be tested with yeast or fungal cells having a mutation which results in overexpression or underexpression of at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2, in addition to contacting wild type cells with said compound,
- 15           (b) monitoring the growth, death rate or activity of said mutated cells compared to said wild type cells; wherein differential growth or activity of said mutated yeast or fungi cells is indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway,
- 20           (c) alternatively monitoring the growth, death rate or activity of said mutated cells compared to mutated cells which were not contacted with the compound to be tested, wherein differential growth or activity of said mutated yeast or fungi cells is indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway,
- (d) alternatively monitoring changes in morphologic and/or functional properties of components in said mutated cells caused by the addition of the compound to be tested.

25           7.     A method of identifying compounds which selectively modulate expression or functionality of polypeptides involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast and fungi or in metabolic pathways in which said polypeptides are involved, which method comprises:

- 30           (a) contacting a compound to be tested with yeast or fungal cells transformed, transfected or infected with an expression vector comprising an antisense sequence of at least one of the nucleic acid sequences as defined in claim 1, which expression results in underexpression of said polypeptide, in addition to contacting one or more wild type cells with said compound,
- 35           (b) monitoring the growth, death rate or activity of said transformed, transfected or infected cells compared to said wild type cells; wherein differential growth or activity of said transformed, transfected or infected yeast or fungal cells is

indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway,

- 5 (c) alternatively monitoring the growth, death rate or activity of said transformed, transfected or infected cells compared to transformed, transfected or infected cells which were not contacted with the compound to be tested, wherein differential growth or activity of said mutated yeast of fungi cells is indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway,
- 10 (d) alternatively monitoring changes in morphologic and/or functional properties of components in said transformed, transfected or infected cells caused by the addition of the compound to be tested.

8. A method of identifying compounds which bind to or modulate the properties of polypeptides which are involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi, which method comprises:

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- (a) contacting a compound to be tested with at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2,
- (b) detecting the complex formed between the compound to be tested and said polypeptide,
- 20 (c) alternatively, examining the diminution of complex formation between said polypeptide and a binding partner, caused by the addition of the compound being tested.
- (d) alternatively, examining the alteration in the functional activity of the polypeptide, caused by the addition of the compound being tested.
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9. A method of identifying compounds which selectively modulate expression of polypeptides which are involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi which method comprises:

- 30 (a) contacting host cells transformed, transfected or infected with an expression vector comprising a promoter sequence of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 joined in frame with a reporter gene,
- (b) monitoring increased or decreased expression of said reporter gene caused by the addition of the compound being tested.

10. A method according to any of claims 6 to 9 wherein said yeast or fungus is chosen from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, *Candida albicans*, or *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

5 11. A compound identifiable according to the method of any of claims 6 to 9.

12. A compound according to claim 11 for use as a medicament.

10 13. A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for treating diseases associated with yeast or fungi comprising admixing a compound according to claim 12 with a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. Use of a compound according to claim 11 or 12 for the preparation of a medicament for treating diseases associated with yeast and fungi.

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15. Use of a compound according to claim 11 or 12 or a genetically modified organism as defined in claim 5 for the preparation of a medicament for modifying the endogenic flora of humans and other mammals.

20 16. Use of a compound according to claim 12 where the yeast or fungus is chosen from *Candida* spp., *Aspergillus* spp., *Microsporum* spp., *Trichophyton* spp., *Fusarium* spp., *Zygomycetes* spp., *Botritis* spp., *Cladosporium* spp., *Malassezia* spp., *Epidermophyton floccosum*, *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Coccidioides immitis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*,  
25 and *Sporothrix schenckii*.

17. A nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide which is involved in a pathway for programmed cell death of yeast or fungi selected from:

30 (a) a nucleic acid encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418,  
35 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452,



454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484, or encoding a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said protein;

- (b) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% similar, preferably more than 80% similar, more preferably more than 90% similar and most preferably more than 97% similar to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484;
- (c) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484;
- (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 285, 287, 289, 291, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 337, 341, 343, 345, 347, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 397, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 415, 417, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 475, 477, 479, 481 or 483;
- (e) a nucleic acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the nucleic acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 285, 287, 289, 291, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 337, 341, 343, 345, 347, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 397, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 415, 417, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 475, 477, 479, 481 or 483; and,

- (f) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a functional fragment of any of the nucleic acid sequences as specified in a) to e),
- (g) the complement of any of the nucleic acid sequences as specified in a) to e).

- 5           18.     A nucleic acid according to claim 16 characterized in that it is derived from *Candida albicans*.
19.     A nucleic acid molecule capable of selectively hybridizing to a nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1 or the complement thereof.
- 10           20.     A nucleic acid sequence according to any of claim 17 to 19 which is mRNA
21.     A nucleic acid sequence according to any of claims 17 to 19 which is
- 15     DNA.
22.     A nucleic acid sequence according to any of claims 17 to 19 which is cDNA.
- 20           23.     An antisense molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence capable of selectively hybridizing to the nucleic acid sequences according to any of claims 17 to 22.
24.     An isolated protein which is involved in a pathway for programmed cell
- 25     death of yeast or fungi selected from:
- (a) a protein having an amino acid sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 30     398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484, or encoding a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said protein;
- (b) a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% similar, preferably more than 80% similar, more preferably more than 90% similar and
- 35     most preferably more than 97% similar to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308,

- 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484;
- 5
- (c) a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304,
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- 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484; and,
- 15
- (d) a functional fragment of any of said proteins as defined in a) to c)

25. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to any of claims 17 to 23 .
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26. An expression vector according to claim 25 which comprises an inducible promoter.
27. An expression vector according to claim 25 or 26 which comprises a sequence encoding a reporter molecule.
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28. A host cell transformed, transfected or infected with the vector of any of claims 25 to 27.
29. A nucleic acid molecule according to any of claims 17 to 23 for use as a
- 30
- medicament.
30. A polypeptide according to claim 24 for use as a medicament.
31. An antibody capable of specifically binding to a polypeptide according to
- 35
- claim 24.

32. An antibody according to claim 31 for use as a medicament.

33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 31 or 32.

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34. Use of an antibody according to claim 31 or 32, or an antibody capable of binding to at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2, for the preparation of a medicament for treating diseases associated with yeast and fungi.

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35. Use of an antibody according to claim 34 where the fungus is *Candida albicans*.

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36. A nucleic acid probe which comprises a fragment of at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 17 and which selectively hybridises with any of said nucleic acid molecules.

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37. A nucleic acid primer which comprises a fragment of at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 17 and which selectively amplifies any of said nucleic acid molecules.

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38. A genetically modified mammalian cell or non-human organism in which modification results in the overexpression or underexpression of at least one of the nucleic acids as defined in claim 1 or a human homologue thereof or at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2 or a human homologue thereof, which overexpression or underexpression of said nucleic acid or polypeptide prevents or delays apoptosis of said genetically modified mammalian cell or in said genetically modified non-human organism.

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39. A method for identifying compounds for stimulating or inhibiting apoptosis comprising the use of at least one of the nucleic acid sequences as defined in claim 1 or a human homologue thereof and/or at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2 or a human homologue thereof and/or a genetically modified mammalian cell or non-human organism according to claim 38.

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40. A compound identifiable according to the method of claim 39.

41. A compound according to claim 40 for use as a medicament.

42. A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for treating proliferative disorders or for preventing apoptosis in certain diseases comprising  
5 admixing a compound according to claim 40 or 41 with a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

43. Use of a compound according to claim 40 or 41 for the preparation of a medicament for treating proliferative disorders or for preventing apoptosis in certain  
10 disorders.

44. Use of a nucleic acid molecule selected from any of the nucleic acid molecules as defined in claim 1 or a human homologue thereof for treating proliferative disorders or for the prevention of apoptosis in certain diseases.  
15

45. Use of a polypeptide selected from any of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2 or a human homologue thereof for treating proliferative disorders or for the prevention of apoptosis in certain diseases.

46. A pharmaceutical composition for use as a medicament for treating proliferative disorders or for the prevention of apoptosis in certain diseases comprising a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 or a human homologue thereof or a polypeptide as defined in claim 2 or a human homologue thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier diluent or excipient therefor.  
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47. A vaccine for immunizing mammals against proliferative disorders or for preventing apoptosis in certain diseases comprising least one nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 or a human homologue thereof or at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 2 or a human analogue thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.  
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48. Use of an antibody according to claim 31 or 32 or an antibody capable of binding to at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2 or a human homologue thereof for the preparation of a medicament for treating proliferative disorders or for the prevention of apoptosis in certain diseases.  
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49. An expression vector comprising a human homologue of a nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.

50. An expression vector according to claim 49 which comprises an inducible promoter.

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51. An expression vector according to claim 49 or 50 which comprises a sequence encoding a reporter molecule.

52. A host cell transformed, transfected or infected with the vector of any of claims 49 to 51.

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53. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a human homologue of at least one of the nucleic acid sequences as defined in claim 1.

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54. An antisense molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence capable of selectively hybridising to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 53.

55. A polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 53.

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